

Printed your letter on page 10.  
+ haven't heard back from you on the G.B. stuff.  
Got any opinions/info? Best wishes,  
J.B.

ISSUE # 4

Devil's Advocate, Box 10853, Pensacola, FL 32524  
\$2, cash, check, or M.O. payable to Tim Brigham

# The Devil's Advocate

D.A. has decided to devote a large portion of this issue to an extremely interesting case researched by a very objective researcher, Brian Boldman.

## THE WHITSETT ANGEL HAIR CASE

by Brian Boldman

Whitsett is a small community located in central North Carolina about ten miles east of Greensboro. Although it is not really a rural area, the residents are generally down to earth God fearing farmer types. Yet I have talked to current and former Whitsett residents that claim UFO's visited them on October 27, 1955.

It was a cloudless fall day with a high of 76 degrees and a wind averaging 7 mph out of the south. At 2:45 PM, 120 elementary students, their teachers, and principal spotted angel hair drifting from the sky while 'flying saucers' careened about overhead. H.D. Lambeth, the principle, said "They looked most like shiny steel balls" and reported seeing about 10 of them at an unknown altitude moving in all directions. While the students ran across the playground and the adjacent field collecting it, H.D. Lambeth also collected some and wrapped it in a "postcard size piece of construction paper" and put it in his wallet. He also collected some and

*Here at Devil's Advocate we feel obligated to voice views that many people would consider to be in opposition to the majority opinion. We don't claim to be right all the time, our purpose is just to make you think.*

*We believe that there is a genuine UFO phenomenon, but we also feel that we should examine both sides of the story to keep ourselves open minded, objective, and on our toes.*

placed it in a sealed jar that was locked in the school's filing cabinet. He later gave some of this material to Mr. Guy Munger, the staff writer for the Greensboro Daily News. Munger took this sample to "a Greensboro biologist" (unknown) who identified it as "probably some kind of synthetic textile fiber."<sup>1</sup>

The next day the Greensboro Daily News ran the story on the front page. Captain Murray Thornton, executive director for Greensboro Civil Defense visited the school, collected some of the material and stated that "samples of the 'angel hair' would be sent to state Civil Defense headquarters for analysis." Nothing was ever heard about the results. The following day, the 29th, the Greensboro Daily News published the article "Whitsett's 'Angel Hair' Is Puzzling Technicians" that stated that a "fiber technician with Burlington Industries" said it was not synthetic, and the "Greensboro

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SEEN BY I20; SCHOOL GETS OUT EARLY

# 'Angel Hair' Falls At Whitsett With 'Flying Saucers' Overhead

BY GUY MUNGER

Greensboro Daily News Staff Writer

WHITSETT, Oct. 27—A former Air Force observer and 120 students and teachers reported sighting about 10 "flying saucers" here today as wisps of "angel hair" fell from a cloudless sky.

A Greensboro biologist identified the "angel hair" as "probably some kind of synthetic textile fiber." He suggested that it might have been carried in the wind from a nearby mill.

There was no immediate explanation of the "saucers." The control tower at the Greensboro-High Point Airport said there was considerable jet plane activity over the area today but most of the planes were at 20,000 feet or higher.

H. D. Lambeth, 31, principal of Whitsett School and an aerial observer during World War II, said the "saucers" were visible between 2:45 and 3:10 p.m.

"They looked most like shiny steel balls," he said. "There was

no way of telling how big they were or how high. If there'd been

any clouds, I could have noticed whether they went over or under them."

Lambeth said he, three other teachers and all the students at the school watched the mysterious objects from the basketball court beside the school.

There were about 10 of the "saucers" and they moved in a steady, straight line "with no wobble," Lambeth said, though occasionally

they would stop momentarily, then move on.

Lambeth watched the aerial objects through a pair of binoculars.

"I'm near-sighted," he said, "and the children or one of the teachers would point one out and I'd check it with the binoculars."

"I tracked one over toward the sun and as it moved in that direction it seemed to glow a coppery color."

The "angel hair" started falling about the same time the "saucers" were sighted. It fell generally in small wisps, though a few pieces as long as six inches were found.

"One little boy had a piece six inches long, but some of the bigger children wanted scissors and tore it up," Lambeth said.

Like Cotton Candy

Mrs. W. T. Newton, who lives near the school, also saw the "angel hair." She described one chunk as looking like a "long roll of cotton candy."

The "angel hair" landed all around the school and was found scattered over a tract of several acres nearby. Children swarmed through the stubble of the field picking up the pieces that clung to the grass. One non-daring youngster tasted the material. "It's salty," he said.

When burned, the material gave off an odor like burning silk or some other animal fiber.

Synthetic Fiber

The Whitsett "angel hair" resembled in many details descriptions of similar material found Oct. 10 in Burlington and later identified as spider webs carried by the wind. Some spiders spin webs then cut them adrift in the wind and fly to a new home. The Greensboro biologist who identified today's "angel hair" as a synthetic said, however, that it was unlikely spiders could spin webs in the quantity reported at Whitsett.

Both "angel hair" and "saucers" will be investigated by Civil Defense authorities.

Capt. Murray Thornton, executive director of Civil Defense for Greensboro and Guilford County, said tonight that he will visit the

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(Daily News staff photo by David Nicholson.)

## THEY'RE LOOKING FOR 'ANGEL HAIR'

H. D. Lambeth (holding binoculars), principal of Whitsett School, and a group of his students watch wisps of "angel hair" float down around the school yesterday after "flying saucers" were seen.

biologist" said it was not spiderwebs.<sup>2</sup>

I began my investigation by contacting Mr. George Fawcett, who has been in ufology for around 40 years. Mr. Fawcett seemed to remember the case, but could add nothing new, although

he did provide a bibliography of works related to angel hair. I continued my investigation by contacting Burlington Industries to try to get a copy of the original analysis. After many long

GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1955

# 'Angel Hair' Falls At Whitsett; 'Saucers' Overhead

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Whitsett School tomorrow for a first-hand check.

"I've already checked with the control tower and weather station at Greensboro," he said. "The tower had no explanation and the weather station said they had released no balloons since 10 this morning."

Thornton said samples of the "angel hair" would be sent to state Civil Defense headquarters for analysis.

Lambeth said he was confident the objects were not weather balloons.

"I've seen weather balloons and they don't look like that," he said.

Lambeth served with the 11th Combat Cargo Squadron during World War II, attached to the 10th and 14th Air Forces in the China-Burma-India Theater.

At least four other adults saw the "saucers." Three were teachers at Whitsett School, Mrs. Rachel McFarling, Mrs. Anne Wright and Mrs. Margaret Michaux. Mrs. Robert Montgomery of Whitsett also reportedly sighted the mystery objects.

Lambeth already was beginning to take a little kidding as a result of his report. Several parents stopped by the school and halted the principal with cries of, "We came to see the man from Mars."

But Lambeth was sticking to his story.

"I was upstairs wrapping prizes for the Halloween carnival Saturday evening when two of the children ran in to say they'd seen some of the angel hair," he said.

"I went downstairs and got the binoculars from the car and tried to track some of the angel hair. Then right above one of the strands of hair, I saw this round silvery ball.

"You couldn't estimate the speed because you couldn't tell how high they were or how big. But I asked one of the teachers to time one and it took a minute and a half to go from directly overhead to the horizon."

School Out Early

Did Lambeth think the children might have seen the saucers because it was suggested to them?

"No. If there was any suggestion done, it was the children who did it. They saw the angel hair first and told me. Then when we got down in the schoolyard we all saw them about the same time."

One thing about the mystery, the children got out of school early. Classes usually end at 3:10.

Lambeth said, "When we saw the flying saucers school was out and I mean really out."

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distance calls and many dead ends, (literally) I managed to determine who had done the analysis and where, but nothing more except what was reported in the Greensboro Daily News about it. I managed to locate H.D. Lambeth, and I have had several conversations with him. Lambeth was a navigator and observer during World War II, became a teacher and principle at Whitsett Elementary, and later became a psychologist at East Carolina University After earning his Ph.D. Now 71, Dr. Lambeth is sharp and definitely remembers the events of that clear October day. He still believes that UFO's were there, stands by his story and generally doesn't seem to care if people believe him or not. I could find no discrepancies in his story.

One interesting detail he related was that he and several students witnessed a small gold or bronze colored object fall into some nearby woods. Nothing was ever found that I am aware of. I looked over the area myself, but found nothing. None of the witnesses I talked with

GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS



(Daily News staff photo by David Nicholson)

## 'ANGEL HAIR' FALLS ON WHITSETT

Three students at Whitsett School look over some of the "angel hair" they collected in the school yard yesterday. Left to right: Thomas Blythe, 12; Jo Ann Whitsett, 12; and Sandra Blythe, 10.

remembered seeing this object. Possibly the most sinister aspect related to me by



Dr. Lambeth was that both samples of the angel hair he collected, the one in his wallet and the one at the school, vanished. Paper, jar, and angel hair just disappeared. He has no idea what happened to them, and stated to me he was the only one with the key to the filing cabinet where the glass jar was stored at the school. He was unable to pinpoint the time of the disappearance or the probable cause.

I located several of the teachers, including Mrs. Anne Wright, who now lives in Virginia and is married to a minister. She did remember the event, and also seemed to have a sharp recollection of it. Her description of the activity was interesting, describing in detail how the children ran around excitedly collecting angel hair, but with a rather startling omission: she did not remember the UFO's. As objectivity is the

goal, I must mention that she is not the only one. Some of the students I have spoken with, as well as other members of the community at the time do not remember seeing UFO's. Of course this does not mean that there were not any UFO's at Whitsett, just that some didn't see them. I find this a little troubling and confusing. They seemed fairly obvious to others, including Dr Lambeth, and Tony Ingles' (one of the students) mother. It is possible we are dealing with a belief system conflict on the part of some witnesses, or that they simply were not looking in the right direction. Like they say, you can have ten witnesses to a car accident and have ten different stories, it does not mean the accident didn't happen.

Finding the students has been a challenge. The school was condemned in the early 1960's, and all records were

apparently destroyed. I have managed to find only a handful of students present in 1955. Tony Ingle was 10 when he was a student at Whitsett and had some interesting comments. "I was at the school when this happened. We were out on the playground and kept noticing things in the sky which at first we thought might be airplanes, silver looking and reflected the sun." Later, Mr. Ingle stated "It looked to me they were moving all over the place.

MORNING, OCTOBER 29, 1955

## NO READY EXPLANATION

# Whitsett's 'Angel Hair' Is Puzzling Technicians

BY GUY MUNGER

Greensboro Daily News Staff Writer

WHITSETT, Oct. 28 — Puzzled chemists and biologists today played a game of "animal, vegetable or mineral" with the mysterious "angel hair" that fell here Thursday.

They had no ready explanation of the wispy stuff or the 10 "flying saucers" sighted as the "angel hair" floated to earth.

A fiber technician with Burlington Industries tested a sample of the "angel hair" and said it was not cotton, wool or any commercial synthetic yarn. He suggested that it might be spider webs or a similar animal material.

But a Greensboro biologist examined a sample of the "angel hair" under a microscope and said it was "unlikely" that it was spider webs.

Seen By Over 100

H. D. Lambeth Jr., 31, principal

of Whitsett School and a former Air Force observer, and more than 100 students and teachers sighted the "angel hair" about 2:45 p.m. Thursday.

It looked like bite-sized chunks of cotton candy as it drifted toward the ground. Enough fell so it could be found easily all over the schoolyard and an adjoining field.

Lambeth said that as he and the students and teachers watched the "angel hair" they saw "silvery steel balls" moving in all directions in the cloudless sky above the falling material.

No one knew if all this heavenly activity was connected.

Capt. Murray Thornton, executive director of Civil Defense for Greensboro and Guilford County, visited the Whitsett area today and interviewed adults who had seen the "flying saucers" and "angel hair."

After his visit, Thornton said, "I'm inclined to think that the 'silver balls' were reflections of the sun on whatever the stuff was at higher altitudes."

Thornton said a sample of the "angel hair" had been sent to a biology laboratory for further analysis.

Lambeth agreed that the theory of sun reflections was reasonable.

"It would ease a person's mind if he could believe it," Lambeth said. "But I'm not convinced it fits all the facts."

Lambeth said two things bothered him: The silver things we saw were moving in all directions and there was hardly any wind or turbulence that would have moved that wispy stuff like that. Besides, the teachers and children said the objects looked too solid to be just

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## 'Angel Hair' Substance Still Not Identified

(Continued From Page 1)

reflections."

Lambeth said he and the teachers had been "worried about building it up and tried to discredit what we'd seen or at least explain it away."

When told that biologists and chemists were having trouble identifying the "angel hair," Lambeth said he was "a little relieved that someone else is mystified by this affair."

The Bur-Mil technician who examined the sample of "angel hair" said flatly, "It does not have the properties of any synthetic or natural fiber known to commerce."

The technician said he used a series of chemical and heat tests on the sample and concluded that "it looks like it's of animal rather than cellulose origin."

He said the material "fused before it burned" and gave off a yellow flame indicating salt was present (and confirming the more direct taste test of a small Whitsett boy who said simply, "It's salty").

He said an individual strand of the "angel hair" measured 1/10,000 of an inch in diameter, adding, "That's about 1/25 the size of the finest normal textile fiber."

The Greensboro biologist said that the large quantities of the "angel hair" that fell indicated that spiders were not responsible.

"I doubt that any area could support a spider population big enough to put out webs in that quantity," he said.

### 'ANGEL HAIR' BELIEVED CAUSED BY BUGS

Greensboro Daily News/High Point Bureau  
HIGH POINT, Oct. 28—A High Point man, Dan Arden who is a

fuel oil distributor, believes the "angel hair" and "flying saucers" reportedly seen in Whitsett yesterday can be attributed to some sort of bugs.

On the same day saucers and angel hair were reported seen over Burlington (Oct. 10), Arden says he saw swarms of insects, "about the size of large June bugs," moving with the wind and trailing long strands of spider web-like material.

The local man said the closest bug was about 150 feet up and he saw large strands of the wispy hair at much higher altitudes as they passed near the line of the sun. He estimated the number of the bugs at between 100 and 200, the trailing wisps at up to 250 feet long.

went on to relate a story similar to the others. The kids ran and collected the angel hair, climbed trees to collect what had gotten caught in them, putting the material on sheets of construction paper "to try to show it better." Mr.

Ingle also stated "It's consistency was that when-ever you touched it, it would tend to ball up and go away."<sup>3</sup> This angel hair pro-perty is not widely known even by many modern ufologists as there have been few, if any, bonafide angel hair cases in recent years.

I did not tell Mr. Ingle about the dissolving property of angel hair except after his above quote to me. This gentle-

man seemed to have little or no interest in UFOs and likely would not be aware of the subtle properties of angel hair, how ever since he was directly involved there is the possibility he has been informed about angel hair from another source. Mr. Ingle is the perfect objective UFO witness as he appeared to have no bias one way or the other. In fact he stated "If you look at the sky long enough, you will start seeing things, weather they are there or not. Plus vivid imaginations with children, and *wanting* to see things."<sup>4</sup>

Here we have the heart of the matter. On one hand we have the possibility of the cloud-face-Jesus type manifestation, on the other hand we have sample analysis that are baffling and with properties that are not consistent with spider webs, such as dissipation when handled and the large amounts reported. Mrs. Wright stated "There weren't any spiders involved in these at all. ...It seemed like it was almost too much to have been spiders."<sup>5</sup> It seems to me spiders would almost certainly be present in at least *some* angel hair if they are responsible, yet they have never been reported in angel hair associated with UFO sightings that I am aware of, and Whitsett is no exception. Also, Lambeth stated one "took a minute and a half to go from directly overhead to the horizon." The average wind velocity was 7mph.

A check of the local papers produced two Greensboro Daily News articles, an article published in the Greensboro Record, the Winston-Salem Journal, and the Charlotte Observer. A second trip to the National Archives produced an article in the Blue Book files concerning Whitsett

in the Nippon Times (Japan). The story went out over the AP newswire and Lambeth later received several letters, including one from the Italian Navy. The local articles included two separate reports of apparent UFO sightings and angel hair on October 10, and a letter from an anonymous fisherman at Painter Lakes, about 7 miles from the Whitsett school. He writes "I wondered if what I saw at the same time had any connection with the phenomenon at Whitsett... I noticed a great many large filaments floating from the sky; one was attached to a television antenna some two hundred yards from me... Far over to the west of me a jet plane was rising up, leaving its trail of smoke behind. Not far from the plane appeared what looked like another jet plane descending towards the earth, but it reached a standstill." <sup>6</sup> Apparently this fisherman saw the same phenomenon present in Whitsett, seven miles away. That's a helluva lot of spider webs.

The October 10 reports are interesting. The Greensboro Record reported "A Greensboro resident, Mrs. P.D. Wood of 730 Holt Ave., telephoned The Record today that she saw "angel hair" floating from the north on Oct. 10 at about 1 p.m., and that she saw several silver colored objects which looked like balloons." <sup>7</sup> A letter to the Greensboro Daily News contained the following: "The objects in the sky looked very much like silvery colored steel balls about the size of a baseball." <sup>8</sup>

So just 17 days before Whitsett, we have reports of virtually the same thing. Several other angel hair cases have had these "repeater" type patterns. Probably the most widely known ones were Oloron, France, on October 17, 1952, and then on

October 27 at Gaillac, France. Both of these cases were related by Jacques Vallee in UFO's In Space: Anatomy of a Phenomenon. "The Oloron situation was repeated at Gaillac ten days later. Sixteen disks accompanied a "vertical cylinder" or "cloud cigar," then hovered over the town for ten minutes, while the same whitish substance fell from the sky and covered the trees and houses, dissolving rapidly. A few minutes after the Gaillac sighting, a meteorological station at Brives-Charensac sighted a silvery metallic disk that crossed the sky and flew to the southeast. It was followed by another UFO in the shape of a cigar, which remained motionless in the sky for thirty seconds. There were five witnesses." <sup>9</sup>

Angel hair cases constitute some of the most baffling UFO cases on record. As I have mentioned before, the vast majority occurred in October with 1954 being the year of peak activity. I do not know why there are no recent events; we could speculate that if these cases involve actual alien craft that either the 'ship types' have changed, the constituents of our atmosphere have changed, or possibly the alien race responsible for angel hair no longer visits the Earth. These are indeed far reaching speculations and it is very possible that angel hair has a prosaic and earthly origin. Regardless of the source, it is obvious that there is a real enigma here that warrants further research.

1 The Greensboro Daily News, 10/28/55

2 Ibid, 10/29/55

3 personal communication

4 Ibid

5 Ibid

6 Letter to the Editor, Greensboro Daily News, 10/31/55

7 The Greensboro Record, 'Falling Angel Hair Is Thought to Be Synthetic Fiber', 10/28/55

8 Letter to the Editor, Greensboro Daily News, 11/3/55

9 Jacques Vallee, UFO's In Space: Anatomy of a Phenomenon, p. 87

### **Abductions: The Search for Physical Evidence**

With all the talk about the countless acts of abductions of humans performed by so-called alien beings, isn't it about time to begin searching for physical evidence to support these claims? We would like to present some very simple and straightforward methods which could be used to attempt to collect physical evidence of abductions.

Before we begin we should make clear our opinion that if attempts to collect physical evidence fail, this would not necessarily mean that abductions are dreams or products of imagination, but instead would discount the theory that abductions are carried out physical entities. Various other theories proposed (the "semi-physical theories" as we call them) which deal with intelligent energy forms, sensory manipulation, etc., could not be discounted because of a lack of this type of physical evidence.

It's probable that these types of experiments have been attempted by abductees and investigators in the past. The most likely reason that the results were not published or made public is because nothing was found, and the experimenters felt that this fact would be used to support the claim that the experiences were psychological and in no way real. By proposing that these types of experiments be performed we are in no way attempting to support a particular claim or prove a particular theory, but instead we hope to gather information which may be used to draw objective conclusions regarding the mystery of the abduction phenomenon.

One of the most obvious ways to search for physical evidence would be to use a motion sensitive camera. Devising a crude, but effective motion sensitive camera should not be a challenge to anyone with even a basic knowledge of electronics. Although we have little knowledge of electronics, we feel we can safely say that even a camcorder attached to a motion sensor, like the kind used on outdoor lights, may be enough to get the job done.

The camera could be easily set up so that anything coming near the bed of the abductee would set off the camera. To exclude the possibility of the camera's presence being detected by the eyes of an intruder, it could be easily concealed by hiding it where it would not be obviously visible.

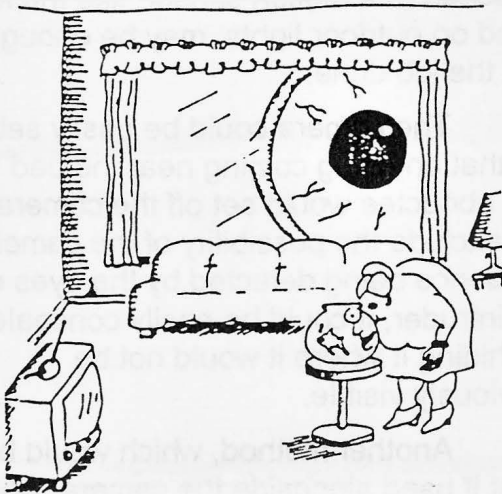
Another method, which would be best if used alongside the camera, would be to set up a tripwire in a proper location, ensuring that any intruder would make a large amount of noise and possibly even stumble to the ground.

Mr. Boldman has suggested another, and somewhat humorous, method. An extremely strong type of double-sided tape, possibly the type used to secure carpeting to the floor, could be purchased in a few square feet and secured to the ground on a proper location to entrap an intruder. Any being the size commonly described by abductees would have to possess extreme strength compared to its size to be able to free itself. We've dubbed this the "alien-paper" method.

The most important factor in this type of an experiment would be the honesty of the abductee. They would have to agree beforehand that any memory of an experience would be reported, even if this experience resulted



in no hard physical evidence. If the subject should awaken with a memory of an experience during the previous night, but fail to disclose this because of a lack of physical evidence, the results would be biased and inconclusive. It seems that devising a method in which the abductee could not review the video tape would be the best solution to this problem.



Unlike some other aspects of the UFO phenomenon, the opportunities to look for physical evidence of abductions are clearly present. Before pro-alien abduction researchers start slinging terms like "debunker" at those of us who attempt to remain objective about the phenomenon, perhaps they should attempt a few simple experiments and (gasp!) try to supply some actual evidence to support their conclusions about the extraterrestrial nature of abductions. Until they do, the E.T. theory, like all others, will continue to be just a theory.

### **The CIA and Remote Viewing**

Unless you've been living in a deep, dark hole for the past few weeks, you probably have heard a least a little bit of information on the CIA's research into

"remote viewing". Remote viewers are rumored to possess the ability to see and describe any location or object regardless of the distance between the viewer and the target.

We are currently attempting to gain possession of a copy of the complete report, which details the study, by filing a Freedom of Information Act request with the CIA.

At this point, we do possess a copy of the conclusions section of the report. One section reads "A statistically significant effect has been observed in the recent laboratory experiments of remote viewing." It appears, however, that this did not lead everyone involved to become convinced that remote viewing was actually demonstrated to exist.

Only one "judge" was used to evaluate the success of the remote viewers, which means that it is possible that instead of the test subjects possessing paranormal abilities, it is possible that the judge was merely good at interpreting ambiguous information.

The report concludes that remote viewing has not shown to be of any intelligence value and that the program should no longer receive money to continue.

It appears that many of those involved in the study feel that the subject should be studied by the academic and scientific communities. Obviously these men were influenced by the excellent job the private sector has done in investigating the UFO mystery!

We presented the previous information for two reasons, first, it involves government investigation into possible paranormal phenomenon, and second, if remote viewing is real it would force us to reevaluate many of our current



scientific beliefs, and thus just might shed some light on the UFO mystery.

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the conclusion section of the report may do so by sending us a SASE and enclosing an extra stamp to cover the copying costs. When we receive a copy of the entire report, which we've heard is several hundred pages in length, we will also make that available to anyone willing to pay for the copying and the postage.

### **Another Key Roswell Witness Bites The Dust**

(The following is a reprint of an article which appeared in the January 10th issue of Jim Moseley's Saucer Smear. We feel that this article backs our opinion that investigation of "the Roswell incident" will shed no new light on the UFO phenomenon. Even if the truth isn't what the Air Force claims, it's buried so deep that we'll never find it anyway. Editor)

Researcher Robert Todd, writing in the most recent issue of "The Kow-Pflop Quarterly" (formerly called "The Cowflop Quarterly") gives us four pages of detailed information about Jesse Marcel, much of it taken directly from Marcel's nearly 200-page military personnel file. The title of Todd's article is "Major Jesse Marcel: Folk Hero or Mythomaniac?" Roswell fans will recall that Marcel was the Intelligence officer at Roswell Army Air Field at the time of the July, 1947 Roswell Incident, and is therefore a key figure in the legend.

The file shows that Marcel exaggerated or lied about several important aspects of his career, which

gives us Just Cause to be suspicious of the accuracy of his description of the Roswell debris. ("Just Cause" is an excellent UFO zine published by Barry Greenwood, and Todd's zine is always mailed out together with it.)

Among the problems: Marcel claimed 3,000 hours of flight time as a pilot before going into the Air Force, but there is no indication in his record that he had any. Later he flew on many combat missions in World War 2, as an intelligence officer, but never as a pilot or gunner.

Although Roswell proponents believe that Marcel's high rank of Lt. Colonel makes him more believable, he was never more than a Major while on active duty. He became a Lt. Colonel in the Air Force Reserve after his retirement.

Marcel claimed to have a B.S. degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and to have attended four other colleges. However, there is no indication that he had any degree, and apparently he had only a total of one year of college anywhere. After leaving active duty in 1950, Marcel returned to the relatively humble status of a self-employed television repairman in Louisiana.

The item we like best is this one: Marcel once claimed to an interviewer that in 1949 he "wrote the very report that President Truman read on the air declaring that Russia had exploded an atomic device". However, it turns out that no such report was ever read on the air by President Truman. Instead, the White House merely issued a written statement about the event! Not surprisingly, Marcel's name does not appear anywhere in the records as having been among the

many U.S. scientists and top military men associated with this event.

Some of the above information has been published previously by Bob Pratt, Karl Pflock, Phil Klass and others, though none worked from Marcel's complete military personnel file as Todd did. Todd is much to be commended for the work he has done.

"The Kow-Pflop Quarterly" can be obtained from Robert Todd, 2528 Belmont Ave., Ardmore, Pa. 19003-2617.

.....And Saucer Smear can be obtained from Jim Moseley, box 1709, Key West, FL 33041.

### **A Response to the Evolution of Abductions**

The following is a response to the article "The Evolution of Abductions," which was printed in our last issue. The response was sent in by abduction researcher Martin Kottmeyer who starts out by referring to a chronology he compiled of insects in films.

"The chronology at minimum establishes a cultural pool of fictional entities from which our modern UFO mythos could crawl out of. Whether such fictional precursors are troublesome to the purely physical will depend on whether one feels comfortable dismissing them as coincidence. Clearly though they are something (we) would expect to find if psychology is a major factor in these experiences. It doesn't take an Einstein to guess both fiction and mythos entities are rooted in instinctual fears humans have about bugs, especially spiders. The drift of contact stories to be increasingly horrific over the past decade or so favors the spread of this imagery."

"The Chameleon theory is hard for me to accept for reasons given in my 'Alienating Fancies' papers. Multiple witness abductions are usually problematic when one gets into the specific details. Barney Hill, for example, did not describe the same aliens as Betty did in her nightmares. Note also the implicit inutility of energy forms in explaining the double abduction I dissect in 'Skybald.' Fatima's 'Dance of the Sun' seems to involve light saturation of the retina and apparent motion due to autokinetisis or some other illusion, according to one author. Many did not witness the dance."

"The arguments against the purely psychological theory don't strike me as that fatal. We are forced to assume the experiencers are reporting dreams... Assume? They often say it outright. Reread Interrupted Journey. Betty Hill said her nightmares were nightmares and only came to believe they were real by subsequent events. Kathie Davis in Intruders calls her experiences dreams. Virtually every person in Missing Time describes their experiences as dream-like. Strieber's nightmare is more vivid than most and it is fair to call them hallucinations since he believes them real, but review the context and the disjointed content and it is weirder to assume it isn't all a dream than that it is. I don't consider abductees fantasy-prone or gullible; I think them thin boundaried and prone to paranoiac interpretations of events. Myths abound throughout history and across cultures presumably driven by common psychological impulses like fear, the wish to be good, the wish to be more powerful, the wish to be loved, etc., etc. What's so hard to believe here?"

Editor response: You've raised some excellent points. We are not completely convinced that abductions are or are not

purely psychological. One purpose of the article you spoke of was to point out that if they are not, then the purely physical/ET theory would probably not succeed in explaining them because of some of the psychological factors that you mentioned.

Regarding Whitley Strieber, his case seems to be too complex to be dismissed as a dream or hallucination. If Strieber is sincere in his claims of "visitors" staying in his home for weeks at a time, including daytime hours, it would be virtually impossible to dismiss his experiences as dreams. We would also hesitate in calling them hallucinations (although we can't dismiss the possibility) because in our brief contacts with Strieber he seemed to be in touch with everyday reality, meaning he wasn't seeing invisible aliens walking about. Why would Strieber suffer these hallucinations only when alone? We do feel however, that we should remain open to the possibility of deception on his part, although we doubt that is the case.

#### Devil's Advocate Roundtable

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We appreciate your feedback, articles, and information.

Special thanks go to Shari Van Schaick for assistance in editing.

Keep in touch.

Devil's Advocate

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